

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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June 14, 2016

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles 383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 West Temple Street Los Angeles, California 90012

**Dear Supervisors:** 

# **ADOPTED**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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June 16, 2016

LORI GLASGOW EXECUTIVE OFFICER

AUTHORIZE THE INTERIM CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER TO ENTER INTO A NON-FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH WESTCOAST CHILDREN'S CLINIC TO IDENTIFY COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN

(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

#### **SUBJECT**

This is to request that your Board authorize the Interim Chief Probation Officer to enter into a non-financial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with WestCoast Children's Clinic to collaborate in the pilot test of an identification tool (Tool) to identify children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

## IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

- 1. Authorize the Interim Chief Probation Officer to execute and enter into the attached non-financial MOU (Attachment) with WestCoast Children's Clinic to collaborate in the pilot test of Tool to identify children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.
- 2. Delegate authority to the Interim Chief Probation Officer to negotiate and execute any subsequent amendments, modifications, and/or extensions of the non-financial MOU, upon approval as to form by County Counsel.

# PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended actions is to authorize the Interim Chief Probation Officer to enter into a non-financial MOU with WestCoast Children's Clinic to collaborate in the pilot test of Tool to

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identify children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation. The purpose of this project is to determine how well Tool identifies commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC), what changes need to be made to Tool to improve its ability to identify CSEC, and what changes need to be made to the user's guide to enhance its utility. The project has two primary objectives: 1) to develop a valid and reliable screening tool to improve identification and early intervention with CSEC in settings where timely decisions about interventions, treatment and/or placement are key, and 2) to develop a statewide training and dissemination strategy that facilitates use of Tool within probation, child welfare, juvenile justice, educational, health, and other settings.

Over the past five years, the County of Los Angeles Probation Department (Probation) has been working on the issue of child sex trafficking without a uniform or systematic procedure to identify CSEC. Instead, Probation relies on self-disclosure, witness statements, and prostitution or related arrests to identify youth. Developing a screening mechanism is critical in creating a faster response to provide the services needed to these youth. Probation has elected to work with West Coast Children's Clinic to implement Tool to improve identification and early intervention with child victims of sexual exploitation in settings where timely decisions about interventions, treatment and/or placement are key. Currently, no standardized and validated CSEC screening tools are available in the country. To address this critical need, WestCoast Children's Clinic developed Tool to identify children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

# Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the recommended actions is consistent with the County of Los Angeles Strategic Plan Goal 1, Operational Effectiveness, and Goal 3, Integrated Services Delivery.

### FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The proposed MOU is non-financial and has no fiscal impact.

#### FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The non-financial MOU includes all contractual requirements and will be executed upon approval as to form by County Counsel.

# **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of these recommendations will allow Probation to collaborate with WestCoast Children's Clinic to identify children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

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Respectfully submitted,

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CALVIN C. REMINGTON
Interim Chief Probation Officer

CCR:TH:cc

**Enclosures** 

c: Executive Officer
Chief Executive Office
County Counsel